

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-19 remain pending in the present application. Claims 20-78 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 20-77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Nakagawa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,835,911, hereinafter Nakagawa) in view of Sakanishi (U.S. Patent 6,678,888, hereinafter Sakanishi) and in further view of Andrews et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0193906, hereinafter Andrews); and Claims 1-4 and 6-19 stand allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the courtesy of the interview extended to Applicants' representative on August 27, 2008. During the interview, the allowed subject matter was discussed relative to the rejected claims. As pointed out during the interview, in order to amend the rejected claims to include the allowable subject matter, the rejected claims would become substantially similar to that of the allowed claims. As such, the rejected claims have been canceled from the present application. As all outstanding rejections have now been rendered moot by the cancellation of Claims 20-78, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, at the Examiner's convenience.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, is patentably distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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